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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

January 15, 1941.

Reserve

RESULTS OF RECENT VEGETABLE SEED SURVEY SHOW
LARGER 1940 PRODUCTION BUT SMALLER CARRY-OVER

Current supplies of most vegetable seeds are indicated to be smaller than last year in a Nation-wide survey just completed by the Agricultural Marketing Service at the request of the National Defense Advisory Commission.

The situation varies materially, however, by kinds and varieties. Comparative data for recent years prior to 1939 are lacking, but supplies of most kinds of vegetable seeds are believed to be sufficient for the planting needs of the United States this year. Seeds which are relatively in shortest supply compared with a year ago -- when vegetable seed supplies apparently were above normal -- are spinach, mangelwurzel, collard, kale, leek, celery, Swiss chard, onion, eggplant, kohlrabi, cauliflower, carrot, non-sweetcorn, beet and radish.

Two hundred twenty-seven commercial vegetable seed producers and dealers, including practically all the principal concerns in this country, reported in the survey, the first comprehensive survey of the vegetable seed situation in 21 years.

Of the 50 kinds of seed covered by the survey, stocks of 36 were smaller and 14 were larger on June 30, 1940, than a year earlier. Although dependable data for stocks in other recent years are lacking, it is reported that the June 30, 1939 stocks were above normal. The largest declines in stocks from 1939 to 1940 were noted for the following seeds, and in the order named: smooth peas, collard, salsify, onion, leek, dwarf lima beans, hybrid sweetcorn, wrinkled peas, pole lima beans, watermelon, mangelwurzel, and summer squash.

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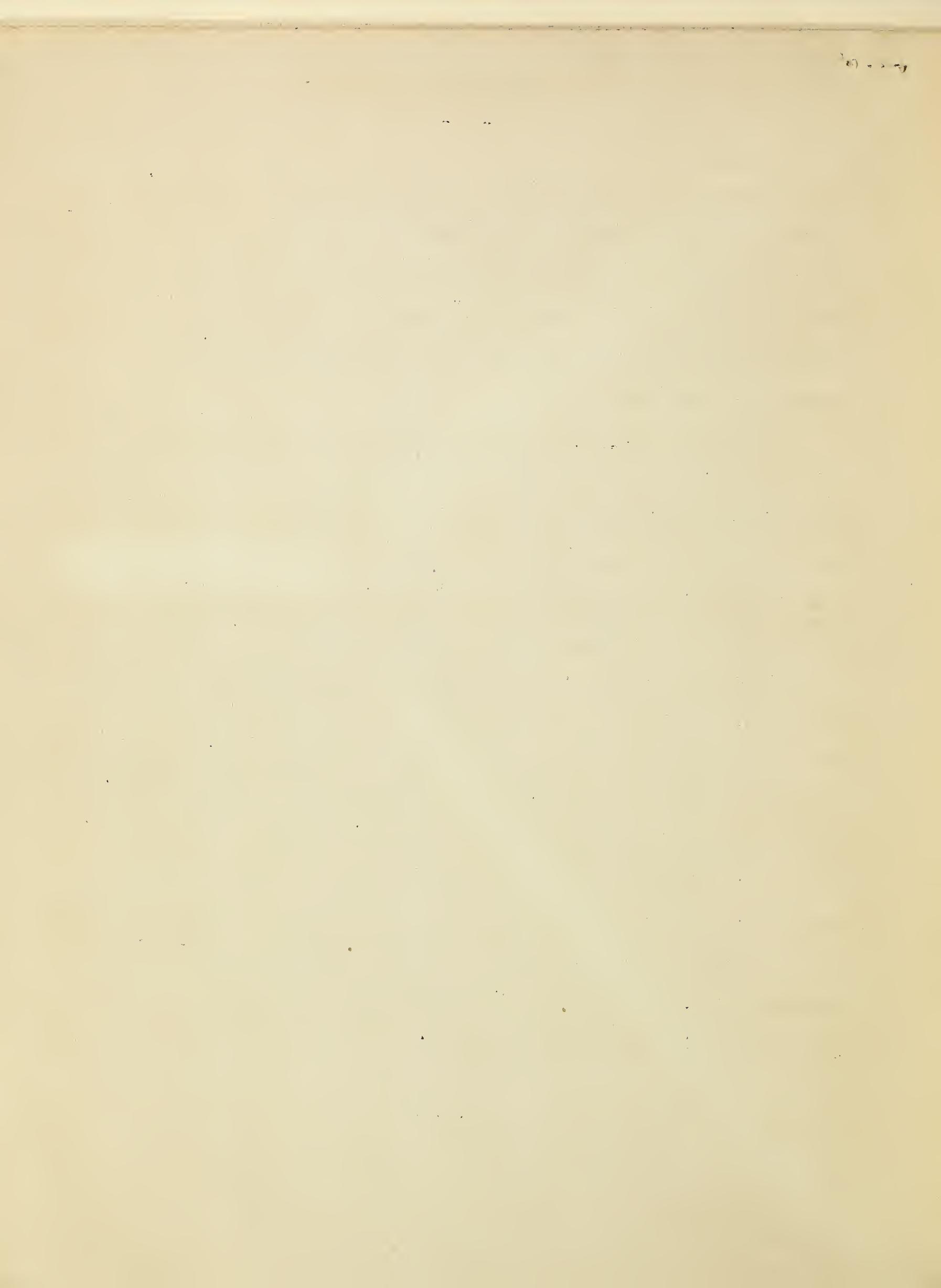
Sizable production increases in 1940 over 1939 were obtained, however, for most of these seeds for which stocks had declined the heaviest. Increases in production in 1940 were more numerous and larger than were the decreases. Greatest increases are reported for spinach, dill, salsify, smooth peas, dwarf lima and pole lima beans, pumpkin, summer squash, and hybrid sweetcorn.

The smaller carry-over on June 30 together with the decline in imports since then might have been entirely offset for most kinds of seeds had yields per acre turned out as well as in 1939, because of a marked expansion in the 1940 acreage of many seeds. Largest acreage increases over 1939 occurred with spinach, smooth peas, parsley, salsify, dill, rutabaga, pole lima and dwarf lima beans, Romaine lettuce, pumpkin, hybrid sweetcorn, radish, loose-leaf lettuce, and wrinkled peas. In general, yields per acre in 1940 were below those of 1939.

The accompanying table gives the acreage, production, and June 30 stocks of 50 kinds of seeds, as reported by 227 producers and dealers. Although practically all the principal concerns in the country reported, the survey is somewhat incomplete because of (1) the reluctance of some growers to report on crops that had not been threshed and recleaned due to unfavorable weather, (2) failure of some firms to take mid-year inventories, and (3) irregularities or discrepancies in a few reports which made it impractical to use them.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND STOCKS OF VEGETABLE SEEDS IN 1939 AND 1940

(Reported by commercial vegetable seed growers and dealers in the November 6, 1940 survey)

Kind	Acreage		Production		Stocks on June 30		Total ^{1/} 1940	
	Comparable		Comparable		Comparable			
	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940		
	Acres	Acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	
Beans, Dwarf Green	18,922	21,022	15,023,493	17,294,310	20,358,946	14,485,560	14,616,110	
Beans, Dwarf Wax	4,753	3,920	3,239,953	2,430,159	5,091,555	4,687,766	4,724,726	
Beans, Pole	2,994	3,896	3,144,296	4,039,340	3,209,705	2,367,302	2,389,571	
Beans, Dwarf Lima	6,342	10,219	6,055,584	11,790,815	3,700,312	2,115,450	2,135,533	
Beans, Pole Lima	393	702	464,689	873,386	538,377	355,244	362,773	
Beet	2,474	1,727	2,149,448	985,666	1,636,791	1,963,536	2,042,188	
Mangelwurzel	41	36	28,165	18,482	265,861	180,694	188,334	
Broccoli	2/	2/	2/	2/	26,616	36,754	38,208	
Brussels Sprouts	2/	2/	2/	2/	5,785	4,795	4,886	
Cabbage	1,083	490	474,031	140,412	933,244	1,027,801	1,057,857	
Cabbage, Chinese	3/	3/	3/	3/	25,552	28,369	28,889	
Carrot	2,940	2,791	1,197,673	722,879	903,814	810,784	862,411	
Cauliflower	2/	2/	2/	2/	24,708	21,697	22,202	
Celery	74	31	59,915	11,913	52,540	56,353	61,990	
Chard, Swiss	99	76	101,152	50,641	170,381	123,637	126,376	
Chicory	23	29	7,068	9,464	8,056	12,829	13,348	
Collard	2/	2/	2/	2/	117,248	58,685	65,389	
Corn, Sweet, Hybrids	2,619	3,821	2,402,546	3,660,152	2,233,851	1,266,372	1,282,783	
Corn, Sweet, Varieties	3,834	3,082	4,484,482	3,591,522	3,100,874	3,397,325	3,582,024	
Corn, Non-Sweet	667	649	1,232,036	759,451	349,010	433,530	455,797	
Cress	3/	3/	3/	3/	2,107	1,785	1,833	
Cucumber	1,841	2,470	428,957	540,645	1,530,802	1,181,971	1,201,318	
Dill	15	28	7,133	18,563	7,087	8,298	8,713	
Eggplant	394	101	18,222	4,202	15,852	19,233	19,573	
Endive	159	86	100,034	36,181	71,712	115,233	122,898	
Kale	2/	2/	2/	2/	79,961	74,257	84,309	
Kohlrabi	3/	3/	3/	3/	20,955	20,662	21,347	
Leek	2/	2/	2/	2/	13,213	7,231	7,456	
Lettuce, Heading	1,782	2,244	620,247	770,312	397,433	332,844	372,243	
Lettuce, Loose-Leaf	459	662	226,424	324,263	224,389	162,547	176,411	
Lettuce, Romaine	111	179	58,230	69,013	34,231	26,886	27,106	
Muskmelon	1,556	1,651	343,135	360,571	353,295	334,692	347,863	
Watermelon	4,227	5,613	384,839	532,395	454,986	302,137	311,266	
Okra	158	95	61,601	37,500	127,047	124,276	126,560	
Mustard	177	195	141,577	77,608	488,669	415,199	435,908	
Onion Seed	1,389	1,877	413,787	325,040	730,176	394,817	403,368	
Farsley	121	240	158,397	219,128	159,250	132,973	134,563	
Parsnip	178	186	97,365	123,979	70,627	54,422	55,098	
Peas, Smooth	16,914	50,060	17,009,133	33,377,087	18,529,034	3,177,264	3,282,840	
Peas, Wrinkled	42,088	59,745	40,946,136	49,277,795	55,990,883	35,675,666	36,026,220	
Pepper	1,501	1,064	59,429	39,502	84,129	82,507	84,821	
Pumpkin	255	396	43,005	80,134	131,044	134,386	137,160	
Radish	3,295	4,768	891,244	1,246,734	1,883,137	1,354,508	1,388,009	
Salsify	26	50	15,697	39,128	39,287	20,340	21,373	
Spinach	170	1,156	137,550	400,173	1,348,769	1,368,879	1,446,862	
Squash, Summer	775	1,324	214,429	333,180	303,318	211,577	215,526	
Squash, Winter	2,034	2,374	184,941	224,128	201,785	154,342	157,335	
Tomato	9,541	9,681	326,117	304,631	285,565	312,279	330,062	
Turnip	1,804	1,611	1,004,958	1,022,573	1,993,742	1,986,477	2,122,310	
Rutabaga	119	217	82,240	94,399	279,333	236,840	243,530	

1/ Figures in this column are the totals of the June 30, 1940 stocks of the firms reporting both their 1939 and 1940 stocks and those reporting only their 1940 stocks.

2/ Indicates that figures have been omitted so as not to reveal the operations of an individual grower.

3/ Where figures are omitted no data were received.

